THE COMMONS COMPLAINT.

WHEREIN IS CONTAINED TVVO SPECIALL GRIEVANCES.

Parliament

The first is, the generall destruction and waste of Woods in this Kingdome, with a remedie for the same: Also how to plant Wood according to the nature of euery Soyle, without losse of any Ground; and how thereby many more and better Cattell may be yearely bred, with the charge and profit that yerely may arise thereby.

The second Grieuance is, the extreame dearth of Victuals.

FOVRE REMEDIES FOR THE SAME.

1. By a generall Planting of Fruit-trees, with the charge and profit.
2. By an extraordinarie breeding of Fowle and Pullen in places conuenient, by a Plot herein set downe for the purpose, with the charge and profit.
3. By a generall destroying of all king of Vermine, with a neere estimation what is yearely deuoured and destroyed by them, and how the most of them in short time may be destroyed with a small charge.
4. Prouing the abundance of Corne, that is yearely deuoured and destroyed by the infinite numbers of Pidgeons, kept and maintained in this Kingdome.

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¶ *To the* KINGS *most Excellent* MAIESTIE.

NEXT vnto GOD, moſt dread Soueraigne, the loue and dutie that I owe vnto your Maieſtie and Kingdome, hath imboldned me to Dedicate the fruits of my old age and trauell vnto your Highneſſe, hoping that the ſubiect thereof will no way offend your ſence. It is intended to the good of your Maieſtie and your Royall Progenie, the generall good of the Common-wealth for all poſteritie; and in part tendeth to your Princely

ſpeech to the Parliament. What I ſhall herein ſet downe I prooue by the beſt Schoolemaſter, which is, my long experience, hauing ſpent many yeares in the attaining thereunto, eſpecially theſe foure laſt yeares, wherein I haue imployed my ſtudy and trauel through ſome parts of moſt of the Countries of this Kingdome for this purpoſe, oft hauing conference with many of the beſt Commonwealths-men for my better vnderſtanding; deſiring by all good means to ataine to a perfect knowledge how to Plant, preſerue, and maintaine the bleſsings of God as well in this our deſtroying age as they haue beene in former times, wherein was left a precedent and plentie of that which is now in effect deſtroyed. All are giuen to take the profit preſent, but few or none at all

regard

regard the poſteritie or future times. This exerciſe in all ages hath beene in high account with the wiſeſt and moſt worthieſt, and hath beene bleſſed by God himſelfe, (as hath appeared to the world:) and by the approbation of your Maieſtie, may bee ſo put in execution, as the branches thereof may bee ſpread ouer all your Dominions, to the diſburdening of your louing Subiects of all their grieuances preſent and to come. I ſpare to proceede any further, ſince your Maieſtie whom God hath filled with the ſpirit of wiſedome in vnderſtanding, by your ready apprehenſion vnderſtandeth much more then I can ſpeake heereof. Thus ſubmitting my poore labours, or rather worthleſſe mite, to the conſideration of your Royall Maieſty, hauing nothing elſe to pre-

ſent the ſame withall, but my humble prayers to the King of Kings, to multiply the giftes of his holy Spirit more and more vpon you, and that you may Reigne many happie yeeres amongſt vs.

Your Highneſſe moſt humble Subiect,

Arthur Standiſh.

To The Reader.

THou haſt here gentle Reader, brought home vnto thee the harueſt of my long experience, with little labour or coſt vnto thy ſelfe, wherin thou mayeſt plainely according to the nature of euery Soyle, learne how to plant ſuch profits as naturally our Country hath, and will afoord for the profit of thy ſelfe and Countrey. Firſt, how to plant Wood, and how to breed Cattell to a greater number, yeerely to thy great gaine, as ſhall plainely be proued. In the ſecond, the profit of planting fruit trees in Hedges or Orchards, as of Apples, Wardens and Peares; being no ſtrange nouelties, although by want of induſtrie

duſtrie they are made ſtrange vnto vs, by our buying them from foraine Countries at a deare rate, by our ſlouth and negligence; whereas by the bleſsing of God, the very ſoyle of our Hedges is ſuch, as they would yeeld great plentie, without hindring any other profit, and may bee gained with leſſe coſt and labour, then any other commoditie in this Kingdome whatſoeuer, as ſhall herein be proued. In the third, the maner how to breede Fowle and Pullin, by a ſecure plot from ſtealing, and from vermine. Laſtly, how by a ſpeedy meanes to deſtroy all kind of Vermine, eſpecially the feathered kind, with a neere eſtimation what is yerely deſtroyed by Vermin and Pidgeons, both in Corne and other things. By means thereof, not onely Corne, but eſpecially other victuals is brought and doth continue at too deere a rate, for the poore Artificer and Labouring man; by which dearth, too oft

ariſeth

ariſeth diſcontents, and mutinies among the common ſort, as appeared of late by a grieuance taken onely of the dearth of Corne, in Warwickeſhire, Northampton-ſhire and other places, about which time the minds of many were moleſted: whereupon I tooke the firſt occaſion to imploy my Studie and trauell in this buſineſſe, hoping by Gods helpe to preuent ſuch inconueniencies, as too oft doth ſpring out of the deſperate tree of want. Whereupon good Reader, it inſueth, that by the obſeruing of theſe ſmall directions, thou mayeſt performe ſome part of the cauſe of thy creation, by giuing glorie to thy Creator, honour, pleaſure, and profit to thy King, Countrey, and to thy ſelfe alſo, by feeling and relieuing thy Chriſtian brothers wants, and by a charitable induſtrie, thou mayeſt raiſe meanes to disburthen them of all their grieuances preſent and to

come, and in the end, by the mercie of our good God, thou mayeſt bee partaker of his louing promiſes in the Goſpell, Come you bleſſed of my Father, &c.

The which I craue for Ieſus Chriſt his ſake.

(. . .)

THE COMMONS COMPLAINT:

WEe doe in all humbleneſſe complaine vnto your Maieſty of the generall deſtruction and waſte of wood made within this your Kingdome, more within twenty or thirty laſt yeares then in any hundred yeares before. Little reſpect is taken but by your Maieſty, for the poſterity and proſperity of your Kingdom; too many deſtroyers, but few or none at al doth plant or preſerue: by reaſon therof there is not Timber left in this Kingdome at this inſtant onely to repaire the buildings thereof an other age, much leſſe to build withall: whereby this greeuance doth daily increaſe. The reaſons are many: firſt, the want of fire is expected, without the which mans life cannot be preſerued: ſecondly, the want of Timber, Bricke, Tyle, Lime, Iron, Lead and Glaſſe for the building of habitations; Timber for the maintaining of husbandry, for nauigation, for veſſels, for bruing and the keeping of drinke, and all other neceſſaries for houſekeeping: barke for the tanning of Leather, bridges for trauell, pales for Parkes, poles for Hoppes, and ſalt from the Wiches. The want of wood is, and will be a great decay

to tillage, and cannot but bee the greateſt cauſe of the dearth of corne, and hindereth greatly the yearly breeding of many cattell, by reaſon that much ſtraw is yearely burned, that to the breeding of cattell might be imployed: the want of wood in many places of this Kingdome conſtraineth the foyll of cattell to be burned, which ſhould be imploied to the ſtrengthning of land, and ſo doth the want of hurdles for the folding of ſheepe, and the want of wood cauſeth too many great loſſes by fire, that commeth by the burning of ſtraw, and ſo it may be conceiued, no wood no Kingdome.

The remedies may be thus.

IF that al owners of land according to the nature of the ſoiles wherein their lands doth lie, were enioyned to plant all their hedges with wood (and not onely with thornes) ſo thicke as conueniently trees may grow and proſper, allowing foure yardes betweene tree and tree; to be topped and lopped for fire-wood (reſeruing ſome part of their hedges where they may thinke it moſt conuenient for their profite, to bee planted with fruit trees, or to plant all with fire-wood, and plant fruit trees in Orchards, according to their beſt liking). And that they might bee further enioyned to plant for euery acre in their ſeuerall occupations, foure trees more, to be preſerued for Timber for ſo many yeares before any of them ſhould be felled, as the trees may be growne to be good Timber, which will be neere foureſcore yeares; and that after that the trees be growne to be Timber, that none ſhould be felled, or at any time before or after waſted, but ſo many to be planted and continued: And that all ſuch perſons as haue at this inſtant

ſtant their grounds furniſhed with wood, in ſuch ſort as is required, might be alſo enioyned hereafter to plant and preſerue ſo many trees and ſo much wood, as hereafter they ſhall fell or waſte. And that all tenants might be enioyned in like ſort to plant their hedges with trees for fire, and to haue the lops to their owne houſes for fire, and to plant two trees for euery acre in their occupations for Tymber. This being performed, no wit can comprehend what good may in time grow thereby vnto the Kingdome, although ſome taſt may be taken by the planting of twentie acres as followeth, with other directions for this purpoſe. And for the better conceiuing thereof: admit that a man haue twenty acres onely in his occupation of paſture ground, wherein hee yearely breedeth or feedeth twentie cattell, and that hee ſhould for this purpoſe incloſe in the drieſt corner of that cloſe halfe an acre, and that there were no fence before about the ſame, but that it were to be incloſed round with a good dich and hedge, which would containe forty eight Rode, and that the charge at the firſt ſhould coſt three pound ſixe ſhillings eight pence, and that the maintayning thereof, till the wood that is therein to be planted ſhould be paſt taking hurt by cattell, which may be ten yeares, ſhould coſt two pound thirteene ſhillings foure pence more, being in all ſixe pound, more by the halfe then it can coſt. The halfe acre being thus incloſed, digge therein about Chriſtmas ſeuen ſcore and tenne plots of a yard ſquare, leauing three yardes euery way betweene the plots digged; let it lie with the graſſe ſide downe till about Midſomer, then digge it againe; and againe about Hollan-tyde, when the Maſt of Okes, Beech, or the Chates of Aſh falleth from the trees: then take of the ſame Maſt or Chats, according to the nature of the

ſoile,

ſoile, and ſet them halfe a foote aſunder, and not aboue a hand bredth deepe, and keepe it weeded well the firſt two yeares; being ſure that the ſpring be not troden on: after which time there may be in September about the middeſt thereof, the ſappe being then in the roote, all the young plants drawne vp to be plantedin the hedges of the ſame cloſe, onely reſeruing two in euery plot of the beſt, being moſt likely to be trees, and after ſixe yeares there may be drawne vp halfe the reſt to be planted elſe-where, leauing then onely a hundred and fiftie; in which time the ground may be mowed betweene the plants, ſo that thereby there is ſmall loſſe: for after the three firſt yeares the ground may be eaten with ſheepe, and after ten yeares the ground may be laid forth to the cloſe, as it was before with ſeuen ſcore and ten young trees, which within foureſcore yeares may well be worth ſo many pounds. The hedges being planted as is ſet downe, cannot yeeld ſo little fire-wood as may be worth twenty ſhillings a yeare: the twenty cattell that there is to be bredde or fedde cannot be leſſe bettered then two ſhillings in a beaſt yearely by their quiet liuing in the wood thus planted; keeping there the fleſh that before they loſt: being before conſtrained by the extreme heate of the Sunne, and Flyes, for want of ſhaddow or wormeſtall, to runne vp and downe the cloſe, loſing the fleſh in the heat that they got in the coole, and ſo ſpoyling the water with running into it, as ſeldome they could get their bellies full of water (the want thereof breedeth many diſeaſes). And further by the quiet being of the cattell in the wood, there is graſſe ſaued yearely worth twentie ſhillings, which before was ſpoyled by the cattels running, treading and foyling of the graſſe. And by this meanes it appeareth, that after ten yeares the twenty acres may be

be

be improued at the leaſt fortie ſhillings a yeare by the cattell: ſo that it is but three yeares profite thus to improue the twenty acres. And this for the breeding and feeding of cattel, all breeders and feeders will affirme, and that a better breed of cattell may be raiſed of thoſe grounds that wanteth good water for their cattel and ſhadow: and for thoſe grounds that wantes eyther, can neuer breed good cattell, or make ſo much profite of their Dairies, as beſt may appeare betweene Lancaſhire and Lincolnſhire, and all other countries where ſuch meanes of water and wood is wanting. And by the wood the twenty acres is bettered at the leaſt other fortie ſhillings a yeare: for if it be caſt it ſhall appeare, that a tree growing til it be foureſcore years olde, being then worth twentie ſhillings, it groweth after three pence a yeare. So that ſo many Timber-trees, ſo many pounds beſides the fire-wood. What loſſe or gaine here is required, I leaue to be cenſured by the Reader.

Obiections.

IT hath beene obiected that it is againſt a mans profite to preſerue his woods, for they grow but after three ſhillings foure pence an acre *per andum*, & the ground being conuerted to paſture, it is worth tenne ſhillings an acre *per andum*. And further it hath been ſaid by ſome that they haue wood enough for them and their heires, let them plant wood that needeth, eyther for building or any other vſes; and that it cannot be conceiued how wood can be planted, in reſpect of the difference of ſoiles, or how plants may be gotten to plant the Kingdome withall, or that any ſuch profite may ariſe, and that there is Sea-coales enow to ſupply many wants.

THE ANSVVER.

THe Obiections are too true, as may appeare to the world as touching wood, but not in the reſt, as hath beene proued, and might further appeare if a ſuruay were taken of the woods now growing in this Kingdome: for it would be found, that the fourth part is not able to maintaine it ſelfe threeſcore yeares without good maintayning and preſeruing. And as touching the difference of ſoiles, who knoweth not, may hereby know, that wood hath and will grow in moſt part of all this Kingdome, being planted and preſerued, as firſt appeareth by the peakes of Darby ſhiere and other ſtonie countries, where there is yet to be ſeene Aſhe wood growing about euery towne, though very rockie: as for oke, beech, elme, and aſhe, it doth grow in flinty or grauelly ground, as appeareth by the Chilterne countrey, (as it is termed in many ſhieres) and on the grauelly grounds euery way about London, by Elme: and for ſoft fenniſh grounds, it appeareth about the townes that there is ſome, and hath beene better ſtore of Elme and Willow, and other ſuch like woods, and would be if it were planted and preſerued. The maner how to plant elme & willow is to lop a yong elme or Willow, the lop being but of three yeares growth, in the latter end of March or the beginning of Aprill, when the ſappe is vp in the boughes, and the buddes ready to put forth, then cutte off the boughes ſo lopped, cut them in lengthes of a foot long Coult-foote wiſe, leauing the knot where the budde is to put forth in the middeſt; then lay theſe ſhort boughes in trenches where you would haue the wood to grow, three or foure fingers deepe, and couer them

them well with mould wel trodden, leauing the knot bare, in moiſt ground for the Willow, the Elme will growe in harder ground: if the ſpring be drie then water them, and aſſuredly they will grow ſooner to be trees then ſets, and being ſet ſomething thicker: and ſo will little yong roots of Elme, being taken when the ſappe is in them, and ſet as quick ſets, by which meanes the Fenniſh countreyes may haue Elme Timber, fire-wood and wormeſtall or ſhelter for their cattell. And as for Sea-coales, there is no aſſurance how long they may endure: it is apparant that Coale-mines doe decay too faſt in moſt countries, and are too chargeable to many countreyes in reſpect of carriage, and in moſt mines are not to be got without the vſe of much wood.

What further benefite may be made on ſheepe-walkes, Downes or Heathes by planting of Wood where the groundes are barren.

IF for example, that on euery Sheepe-walke whereon there is or may be kept fiue hundred ſheepe there were plowed vp about Chriſtmas twenty acres in the loweſt bottom of the walke for this purpoſe, where water may be kept all the yeare, aſwell for the breeding of Fowle, as for the other profites: all which may be maintained vnder one charge by the Shepheard (without forcing, for that on ſuch Downes little cattell commeth). Being ſo plowed, let it lie till Midſomer: if then it be perceiued that there will be Maſt that yeare, then plough it againe, and then let it lie vntill about Hallowmas: Then take the Maſt of Oke, Beech and the Chats of Aſhe, bruiſed Crabbes, after the verjuice is preſſed out, and hawes: mingle theſe together

to ſow about the ſides and endes of the ground about a yard broad, and vpon the reſt ſow no hawes, but ſome few kernels of Crabs; then begin at a ſide and ſow fiue yardes of bredth, & plough vnder this Maſt and Chats very ſhallow, then leaue ſixe yardes in bredth, and ſow and plough fiue yardes more, and ſo from ſide to ſide, and be ſure to leaue a yard and halfe at the laſt ſide. The reſt of the headlands to lie till the reſt of the cloſe bee ſowen in March with Otes, that the cattell may not hurt the Maſt ſowen by treading on it.

The cloſe being thus ſowen with Maſt and Otes, in the meane time there would be a houſe builded for the Shepheard to dwell in, where he may beſt ouer-ſee the ground for his eaſe. The charge thereof, firſt, of the houſe fiue pound, the plowing thriſe and the harrowing two ſhillings eight pence an acre, eight pound the Maſt, and getting it ready fortie ſhillings, for fiue quarters of Otes to ſow the ground fiftie ſhillings, for the getting of Otes in harueſt, and carrying of them into the barne twenty ſhillings, and ſo the whole charge is twenty pound, whereof the Otes will yeeld fifteene pound, which will pay for the weeding of the ground, if they increaſe but ſixe of one. Then when the ſpring is of two yeares growth, there may be drawne vp part of the ſpring, which may be imploied for quickſets: and when the remainder is ſix years of growth, there may be more drawn vp to be ſet: at which drawing there may be got as many as will be well worth fiue pound, leauing then none but fortie foure of eyther ſide of euery row, fiue yards between euery one, and here and there to leaue ſome ſpeciall one that is like to be a fine tree for Tymber, and ſome hundred or more of the Crab-tree ſtockes to graft on, and in the hedge round about to be left thicke

foure

foure yardes betweene euery tree, and ſo leaue as there may be left at the leaſt three thouſand fiue hundred beſides Crab-trees. Theſe three thouſand fiue hundred growing twenty yeares, there may be then two thouſand ſtocked vp, which will be well worth twelue pence a piece to be ſolde; fiue hundred of the very beſt to remaine for Timber-trees, and a thouſand to be topped, which at euery ten yeares end may be lopped for fire-wood: the tops of that thouſand trees cannot be ſo little worth as fifty pound: by which meanes at that twenty yeares end there may be gained by the two thouſand trees that are ſtocked, a hundred pound, and fiue hundred trees left, that within foureſcore yeares may well be worth fiue hundred pound: the thouſand trees remaining to be lopped will grow after fiue pound *per andum* at the leaſt; and the ground being before barren (hardly worth twelue pence an acre) will be worth ten ſhillings an acre *per andum*: for by the graſſe and weeds that will grow the firſt ſixe yeares, and the lodging of the ſheepe in the night, when the weather is ſuch as they cannot be folded, and the ſhadow of the trees, which are ſo to bee planted that there may bee eleuen yardes betweene euery tree, except in the hedges, the ground will be made very good meadow, and will finde the ſheepe hay enough with good winter paſture, and warme ſhelter in ſharpe weather. And if water can be kept, there may be bred with twenty pound coſt, fowle or pullen well worth twenty nobles *per andum*, all charges borne: if the plot for fowle be neare corne, then may there be beſt kept wilde Ducks and Mallards, which doe neuer hurt corne in field.

If the like planting of wood were on common Sheepe-walks, Common paſtures, and Commons where the lands are ſo good as they might be ſowen with Wheat or Rye,

with the Maſt, the whole charge thereof would be made in three yeares worth twenty pound gaine at the leaſt, by the croppe of Wheate or Rye, and a crop of Otes after betweene the grounds where the Maſt is ſowne, as before is ſet downe. If the like prouiſion were made in Parkes where wood decayeth, and hay is ſcant for Deere, it would be very beneficiall to the owners, and by the planting our Commons, common paſtures, or common Sheepe-walks by the charges of the towne whereunto ſuch grounds doe belong, the charge will be inned, as before is ſet downe, in three yeares a preſent reliefe raiſed by fowle to the poore of the towne, of ſix pound thirteene ſhillings foure pence, and after tenne yeares, three pound ſixe ſhillings eight pence at the leaſt by fruite: after twenty yeares by two thouſand trees that may be ſtocked, one hundred pound to remaine for a ſtocke, and fiue hundred trees to be left for Timber, and one thouſand trees remayning to be lopped, which may yeelde woode worth fiue pound a yeare; by which meanes the townes where ſuch prouiſion may be made, may not only be greatly eaſed of the charge of their poore, but alſo haue a ſtocke whereby they may be alwaies diſcharged of ſuch charges as may happen eyther to Church or King by the increaſe of the ſtocke. And further take certain knowledge that all barren and moſſie grounds may be improued much by letting three yeares graſſe rot on the ground, and it is the onely way next vnto Lime to deſtroy Moſſe.

Concerning victuals, the want thereof is very great, in regard that all kinde of victuals is riſen and growne more deere in price within theſe laſt ſixe yeares then in twentie yeares before: and if the dearth of victuals ſhall happen to increaſe but a few yeares to come (as by all likelihood it is like

like for to doe) except ſome ſpeedy remedy be prouided, the poore man by his labours ſhall not get wherewith to relieue himſelfe and family. This dearth may be much eaſed, if that euery one that hath a Pigeon houſe might be enioyned, or otherwiſe required to breed yearly extraordinarily a certain number of fowle or pullen, as ſhall ſeeme beſt to their liking. The manner and faſhion ſhall be ſet downe by a plot for the purpoſe, how they may be bred, with the charge and profite that may yearely ariſe to the owners.

The reaſons whereof are fiue: firſt, in regard that a plot to breed fowle or pullen in, wch may be made & furniſhed with leſſe charges then a Pigeon houſe, yeeldeth more profite and nothing at all offendeth the people; wheras the Pigeons are a great cauſe of this dearth, and more chargeable and profitable to their owners, and the loſſe that the Kingdome receiueth thereby is infinite, as at large ſhall be proued.

Secondly, that it is to be ſuppoſed that euery one that is able to build a Pigeon houſe, is alſo able to make a plot for fowle or pullen to breed in, and eyther is or ſhould be the Lord of the Mannor, who hath to his Mannor ſome conuenient ground to make a plot on for that purpoſe, and to breed ſo many pullen or fowle yearly as he keepeth Pigeons.

Thirdly, that as a Pigeon houſe is builded for houſe-keeping, ſo the fowle and pullen is more profitable, as alſo ſhall be proued.

Fourthly, that as the extreme dearth of victuals cauſeth many to breake vp houſ-keeping, and to put away their ſeruants, whereby many through want fall to ſtealing, and therby come to an vntimely end, ſo an extraordinary bree-

ding of fowle and pullen, with other meanes as followeth, may by Gods bleſſing ſo eaſe the extremity thereof, as men may, as their auncestors haue in former ages, delight in hoſpitality, and thereby preuent many inconueniences that the extremity of dearth doth and may procure.

Fiftly and laſtly, the profite of the fowle and pullen ſhal be proued to be ſuch as no charitable Chriſtian can denie to performe.

Now to proue the difference of the charge and profite betweene a Pigeon houſe and a plot for fowle and pullen: Firſt, all men of experience know, that an ordinary Pigeon houſe of fiue yardes and a halfe ſquare, and foure yardes high to the eueſings; in which houſe there may be contained twelue ſcore paire of Pigeons, will coſt fiue and twenty pound at the leaſt, and that it will be three yeares before it commeth to the beſt profite; and when it commeth to that, the beſt Pigeon houſe is ſeldome worth fiue pound *per andum*, except it be within threeſcore miles of London, where all victuals are deerer then in other places of the Kingdome, or a double houſe. I will not ſtand to proue the opinion of the multitude, of the charge of a Pigeon, that ſhe will eate (if ſhee haue liberty) a quarter of corne in a yeare (although I haue ſome reaſon to beleeue it, for that two credible perſons did affirme vnto me, that they had lately ſeene halfe a pinte of corne at one time, taken out of an olde Pigeons croppe, and offered to make proofe thereof by witneſſes of good credite): but I will admit of that which in common reaſon is not to be denied, that Pigeons haue corne at will to feede on more then halfe the yeare; and admitting that there be twelue ſcore paire in a houſe of olde Pigeons, as commonly there is, and that euery olde Pigeon in that time with her young ones

ones ſhould eate but two buſhels, which commeth to ſixe ſcore quarters at a houſe: & it is generally holden that they hinder the increaſe of that which would grow, and ſpoyle as much as they eate, from the time that corne groweth ripe in the fielde, before harueſt be done and the ſeede times. And thus in reaſon it doth appeare, that in all the ſaid times of the yeare there is at the leaſt ſixteene weekes, in which time ſhe gathereth vp much corne that is left vncouered by the harrowes, which a ſhower of raine would couer, and ſo would grow: and naturally all Peaſe and Beanes if they fall not deepe in ſowing, and be very well couered, they will ſwell out of the ground, and lie bare vppon the ground; and yet notwithſtanding Peaſe and Beanes, and all other corne by nature groweth with the root firſt into the ground, and then ſpringeth vpwards: ſo that after the ſeed-times be done, and the corne groweth greene, till it grow ſo high that the Pigeons cannot goe through it, they gather vp the corne growing, and breake off the blades, and eate the corne: all which will be confidently proued by all Husbandmen and Gentlemen, eſpecially by ſuch as ſometimes lend their minds to vnderſtand the profite of husbandry.

This being allowed (which by no meanes can be diſproued) it appeareth that twelue ſcore paire of Pigeons deuoure, deſtroy, & hinder the increaſe of twelue ſcore quarters of corne in a yeare. Admit it were but halfe ſo much, and that the corne were rated, being Wheat, Rye, Barley and Peaſe, but at two ſhillings and a pennie the buſhell, ſixe ſcore quarters commeth to a hundred pound *per annum* at a houſe. Admit further, that the ſixt part thereof be the owners of the Pigeon houſe (for ſo it is to be ſuppoſed that the Lord of the Mannor hath a ſixth part of the

towne,

towne,then it followeth that his fiue pounds-worth of Pigeons coſteth him ſixteene pound thirteene ſhillings and eight pence at the leaſt. What other charge his Pigeons are vnto him,I forbeare to relate: the number of the Pigeon houſes cannot be fewer then forty thouſand, with the Pigeons kept at houſes. Now to the charge and profite of fowle or pullen: the plot and all things thereunto belonging will not coſt aboue twenty pound, to haue it ſecure, and ſo as when occaſion is,that ſome of the wilde kinde is taken,the taking of ſome may not offend the reſt that are to remaine. The plot muſt be eſpecially for the wilde kinde of Duck and Mallard, which are beſt to be kept both for profite and pleaſure, in a piece of ground where water is and may be got and kept al the yeare,of two and twenty yards ſquare,to be moted about with a mote of a rode or pole of bredth,which wil be twenty pole about;to be made ſixe foot deepe in the middeſt, and ſomething ſhallower towards the ſides, which will coſt at fiue ſhillings a rode, fiue pound. The leuelling of the ground,with quickſet and workemanſhip, foure pound, the houſe being fiue yardes ſquare and ſixe foot high,and hauing a little chamber ouer it to keepe Otes in to feed them: the houſe to be but ſtudded and thinly lathed, two fingers betweene the lathes: which houſe cannot coſt aboue eight pound, and the bridge and doore twenty.

The plot being made,put into it about Chriſtmas three ſcore tame Duckes and twenty Mallards, which will coſt about three and fifty ſhillings foure pence, or at Candlemas for want of Duckes,fortie Hennes and ten Cocks, to remaine till wilde Ducke egges be gotten to breede on in the meane time: there are neither the Hennes nor the Duckes,but their egges will be worth the corne, branne,

and

and draines that the yong Ducklings muſt be fedde with-all, till they can eate Oates. The plot being thus ready and all things elſe, ſend one with a horſe for egges in March into Cambridge ſhiere into the fennes, or into any other neerer place, where wilde duckes egges are to be got for money, eſpecially in the fennes, if the people haue liberty to get them (for in the ſpring time when the wilde duckes laye, the poore ſort will goe with a dogge into the fennes, where their dog wil put vp the fowle out off their neaſts, and then if they finde many egges therein that be vnſitten, they will take moſt of them away with a ladle, or by ſome other meanes; ſo that they neither handle the egges that they leaue behinde, nor breath vpon them; and then will marke the place where the neſt is, ſo as they may readily come to it, and once in a weeke wil fetch all the egges that are laide in the meane time, and ſo make the ducke (whoſe nature is to lay till her neaſt be full before ſhe will ſitte) ſo poore as they may take her (which oftentimes the hungry ſort doe.) The egges being thus got ready, when the keeper of them ſeeth the henne feather her neaſt, and beginneth to ſit, then lay in the neaſt twelue wilde ducke egges: and thus in two yeares the whole number of the wilde or tame may be bred in ſuch ſort as they may be taken off at the owners pleaſure, and a ſtocke of foure-ſcore of the oldeſt to be left for breeding with twenty Mallards: which foure ſcore olde duckes will breed and bring vp commonly euery one of them eight at the leaſt; the whole number to bee three hundred and twenty couple, to be ſolde, are well worth eight pence the couple, which ariſeth to the ſumme of ten pound and a marke for their young ones. Then the egges that they will yearely lay to be but worth fifty three ſhilings and foure pence, at fiue a penny;

and the Fish that may be bred in the Mote yeerely, to bee worth thirteene shillings foure pence; prouided alwayes that there breede no Pikes, for they will destroy the yong Fowle but not the Pullen. The whole Summe is fourteene pound, deduct out of the same fiue pound, to buy tenne quarters of Oates yearely, which ten quarters will allow the Fowles aboue a bushell and halfe a weeke, which is more then is needfull to be spent on them: for except it be in Frost or Snow when the ground is couered, or when they sitte, and the young ones are not able to flie abroad, a very small quantitie will serue to giue them euery morning a few, that euery one may get a dozen cornes. As for their breede, being once well haunted, they will neuer away in the day, if they may be in quiet but altogether in the night, by which means they are halfe safe from Vermine, and they will continue there especially in breeding time. For experience teacheth all men to know, that all thing that hath life, loueth best the place wherein it was bred, finding there their best relieſe and rest: & that all the Winter (till breeding time) there are hardly one couple of Duckes and Mallard to be seene in the Fennes, but abundance in Summer time, where they remaine vntill about Michaelmas, and then they goe away againe. Then further allow fortie sixe shillings eight pence to the keepers, and towards the keeping of the Hedge, the remainder is cleere (all charges defrayed) sixe pound thirteene shillings and foure pence. Thus is the proofe made betweene the Pidgions and the wild Fowle.

The plot for tame will not cost so much by the charge of the house, for being tame, they may be taken at pleasure.

The Pullen will yeeld a greater profit: for there may be likewise kept at a like plot, fourescore Hennes, and twentie

tie Cockes, admit euery Hen to breede yearely but eight Chickens, (though it will bee graunted they will breede twiſe in euery yeare, and at each time eight at the leaſt) their number is ſixteeneſcore couple, whereof eightſcore couple to be ſold being Chickens at ſixe pence the couple, make foure pound. Foureſcore couple of Hens at twelue pence the couple comes to foure pound, and foureſcore couple of Capons at two ſhillings the couple, comes to eight pound. The Egges cannot bee leſſe worth then eight pound at fiue a penny. And the fiſh that may be bred yearely in the Mote will yeeld thirteene ſhillings foure pence: The totall is twentie foure pound, thirteene ſhillings and foure pence, out of which deduct thirteene pound, to buy twentie ſixe quarters of Oates, whereby they may be allowed one weeke with another throughout the yeare, foure buſhels. Allow further yearely foure pound to the keeper of the Pullen and the maintaining of the plot, although it be ſuppoſed, that euery one that will bee at the charge of any of theſe Plots, keepeth one that tendeth his Pullen that he hath already, ſo that the charge hereof will bee ſo much the leſſe. The houſe for Pullen will coſt about fortie ſhillings more then a houſe for Fowle, in reſpect that although the houſe may bee two yardes narrower, yet it muſt be three yardes longer, with Poles in it for the Pullen to ſit vpon. As for neſts they ſhal neede none in the houſe, but in borders where they will take more delight to breede in then in a houſe, and bee freer from doſſes, by reaſon of the ayre; therefore it ſhall not be greatly needfull to haue a Chamber in that houſe for that the Keeper may bring the Oates at any time when he commeth to them. But the reaſon why a Chamber is conuenient in the houſe, wherein the Fowle muſt be vſed

to feede, is eſpecially for the Keeper to ſtay priuately in, to take ſome of the Fowle at pleaſure, without offending the reſt. Thus all charges to the vttermoſt being ſet down, the remainder is ſeuen pound thirteene ſhillings and foure pence per andum de claro, at the leaſt at a chepe rate. The charge of the Plot is vnder three yeares purchaſe for the Pullen, and three yeares purchaſe for Duckes and Mallards. As for the manner of breeding of Pullen and tame Fowle, it is needleſſe to ſet downe, onely thus much: For the tame, their charge will be as litle or leſſe then the wild, if they be bred in large Paſtures, where they may neither doe hurt to Corne nor Meadow ground, which the wilde will neuer doe. The reaſon is, the wild keepe in the water all the day, and feede altogether in the night, and dare not come neere Corne: and their Corne muſt bee giuen them euery morning a little, to drawe them to their breeding place in the day, whither they will not faile to come, being there bred and fed. It ſhal not be needfull to beſtow much Corne vpon the tame, but onely at their firſt being put into the Plot, where they muſt bee kept in for three weekes or a moneth, in which time being fed euery Euening, they will likewiſe ſo know their being, that thither they will come in the night, and feede abroad all day, eſpecially if they find that they ſit quiet in the night; ſuch is the difference of their kinds, the one feedeth by day, and the other by night. Now it remaineth to know how the wild muſt bee bred, when they haue choſen their Neſtes, which ſhall appeare in the Plot hereafter ſet downe.

After the Fowle begin to lay, once a weeke their Keeper may come to their neſtes when the Fowles are off, which will be towards night; and for that purpoſe bring with them an Iron ladle, with a handle halfe a yard long at the

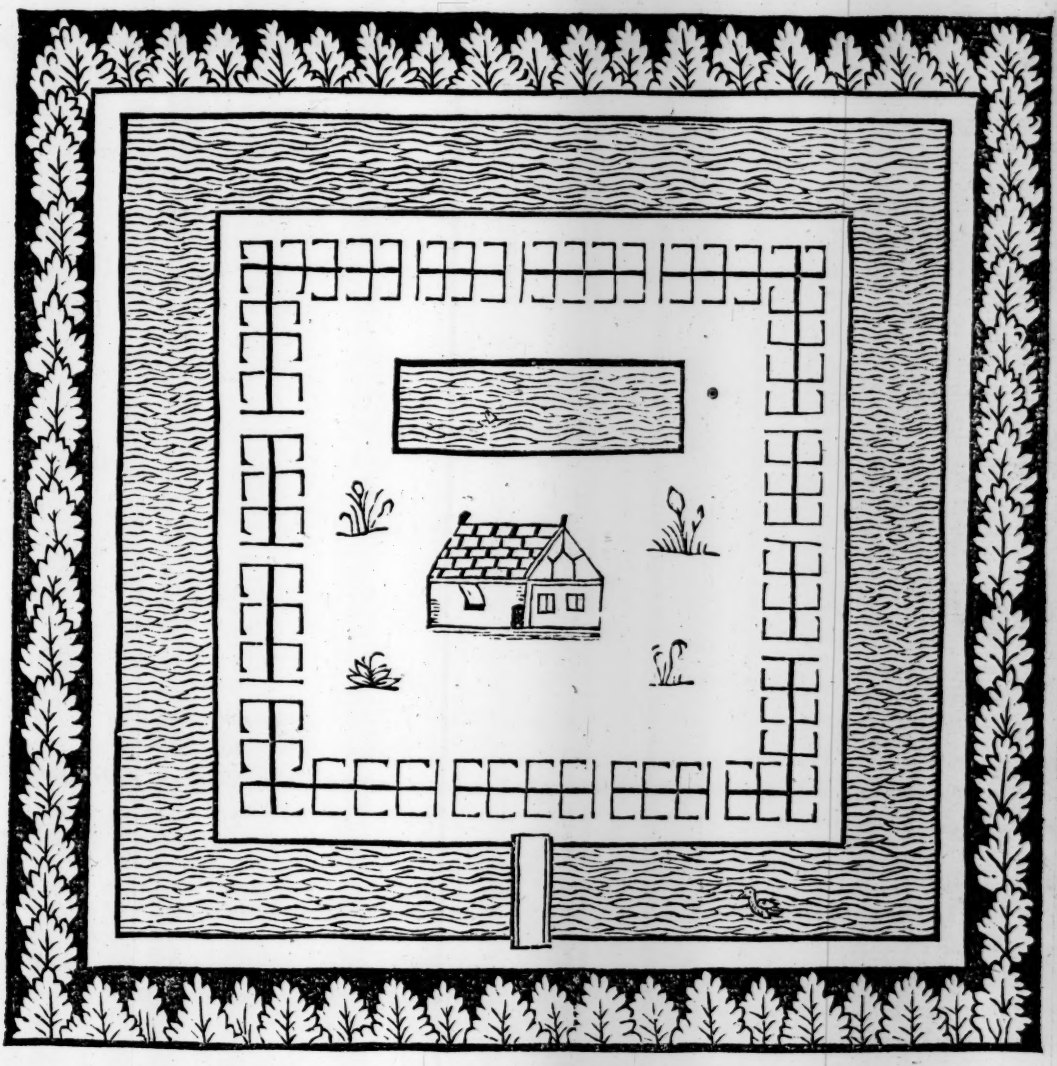
the leaſt, wherewith they may reach into the neſts of the Fowle, and from thence take ſome of the eldeſt laid Egges, as neere as they can geſſe, leauing not aboue or vnder, two or three; taking great heede that they neither handle them, nor breath vpon them, for their nature is to find that fault, and then they wil forſake their neſts. Thus may the Egges for the more profit be taken from them, ſo long as in diſcretion ſhall be thought fit, which commonly will bee about ſome ten weeks, ere that they be perceiued to feather their neſt: and bee ſure in the meane time to keepe ſome Egges, that had beene neither handled nor breathed on; and if there want Egges in any of the neſts, when it is perceiued that they ſit, then with the Ladle, put in more, and make the number twelue at the leaſt. The maner how to take them is thus.

The houſe being made, as before is ſet down, the doore thereof muſt be thus made: A light frame of Wood as can be made, to be as broad and ſo long as the Doore ſtead is, being for the purpoſe a yard or thereabout, for that commonly is the breadth of Canuis or haire Cloth. Then take (for the better laſting) ſo much haire Cloth as the Doore is of height, and make it faſt to the frame of wood as a Doore, which muſt be hanged like a Shop window at the top of the Doore ſtead, to be drawen vp by a Cord and a Pully, and ſo to ſtand. In the meane time the fowle muſt be vſed to be fed in the houſe, which by little and litle they will eaſily be brought vnto, if they be vſuall fed there, and ſome tame ones kept among them for that purpoſe, which for ſundry cauſes I hold the fitter to breede on; eſpecially they being not able to flie, muſt of neceſſitie ſtay there, which will make the Duckes to reſort thither for their mates. And ſome doe hold that the nature of the wilde

Mallard, is to ſucke the Egges if he find them; being thus vſed to haue their Corne in the houſe, which they may be brought vnto, whereof I could giue many inſtances, but one may ſerue for breuitie: One at S. *Iones*, the other at *Auener*, the houſe from whence I deſcended; the laſt owner thereof had by a Tenant of his a dozen wild Ducke Egges brought him, which he cauſed to bee ſet vnder a Henne, which brought him vp twelue yong Duckes, and of them were bred many about the Mote of his houſe, ſo that there hath beene threeſcore at a time; which although they were wild bred, yet would they haue followed from the Mote through the Court, and into the Hall for meate, being called, and but ſometime vſed ſo for pleaſure. And when it pleaſed the owner to ſee a flight, they were alwayes put out of the Mote, and then would they flie to the riuer, or to ſome other pits of water where they were to be found, and being ſhine at, as many as eſcaped with life, would not faile to come home. The Fowle being thus wonted to the houſe, the Keeper being determined to take any of them, may goe into the houſe and call them thither, according to his wonted maner; the Corne being ſtrewed in the houſe, the Keeper may goe vp a Ladder into the Chamber, and there ſtay with the cord of the Doore in his hand, as priuately as he can, and by degrees let the doore down, and when hee perceiueth that moſt of the Fowle are gone forth, then may he let the Doore cloſe downe, and ſo take them as quietly as may be, and no whit offend the reſt. If all Noblemen and others of the better ſort would put this in execution in Forreſts, Chaſes, Parkes, great Paſtures and Commons, it would not only be very beneficial for themſelues in their houſe-keeping, but would likewiſe eaſe the extreme dearth of victuals, to the eaſing of this grieuance.

Obiections

The Figure of the Plot.



IN the caſting of the Mote, the beſt earth muſt bee caſt into the Plot, to raiſe it ſo as the Houſe may ſtand three or foure yards higher then the ſides to the Moteward, that the water may deſcend; and for pleaſure, there may be ſome kind of Quick-wood ſet about it, whereby it may be kept Fort-like. The borders for pleaſure may be ſet with Preuet, whereon many conceites may be faſhioned, ſeeming as though the Fowle bred vnder them; but for profit with Gooſe-berie ſets, which will put forth and be greene timely in the yeare, to ſhadow the Neſts. The paſſadges betweene the neſts, would be a yard broad at the leaſt, and in the vaſt places about the houſe, ſome fruit trees may be planted for profit. On the out ſide of the Mote for Fowle, there muſt be a double Quick-wood ſet of Whitethorne, kept thicke in the botome that the Fowle may not creepe through, to be kept battled if the owner pleaſe. The Quick-wood to be ſet cloſe to the ſide of the Bridge, and the Bridge to lie longer forth then the Hedge, by a yard and a halfe, ſo that vnder either ſide of the Bridge, there may be a little Doore to open and ſhut at pleaſure, to the end the wild kinde after they be fourteene dayes old, may be let forth a nights to feede, and to come in a mornings (whereof they will not faile.) The tame kind muſt not be let forth, till they be paſt taking hurt by Vermine, and they to be let forth a mornings, and to come in a Euenings. For Pullen there needeth no Fence at all on the out-ſide: On the Bridge there muſt be a Doore, and ſo made as no Vermine may creepe in, either ouer or by it, and a Trap continually would be kept on the Bridge. On either ſide the Mote, there muſt be left a yard and a halfe, or rather two yards in the inſide for the Fowle to ſit on at pleaſure, and for fiſhing the Mote, the Mote may be broder at the owners pleaſure. In large Parkes or Paſture grounds, it were moſt profit to be both Fowle and Pullen, the Plats being as farre aſunder as may be.

Place this betweene Fol. 20. and 21.

Obiections against breeding of Fowle.

THat such abundance of Fowle by this meanes may be bred, that thereby Corne may bee made deare. Secondly, that they will destroy the increase of Fish. hirdly, that they will so foyle the ground where they are ed, that the Cattell will not eate the grasse.

The answere to this Obiection.

FIrst, as touching the dearth of Corne that by them may grow, that shall bee answered hereafter in place for that purpose, and how more Corne may bee sa- d by the tenth part then they can spend, which is yeare- destroyed by Vermine.

Secondly, that they doe not destroy or hinder the eede of Fish as it doth appeare, especially in the Fennes the Ile of Ely, where there is greater store of Fish, then re is in any place of England, except it bee in such like nnie grounds: in which Ile there is more Fowle then re is in all England besides, especially in spawning time, which time they may doe most hurt, but at other times ey can do none: For after there is life in the Fish, no mming Fowle can hurt them. And for the better satis- ion of all men in this point, let euery man call to re- mbrance whether euer he saw or heard of a Fish taken of a wild Mallards crop.

Thirdly, as touching their foyling of the ground, an in- ce may be taken by all fennish Commons where they nt, and by all other Commons where great store of ese are bred and kept, where is to bee seene the foyle of the

the Geese to be thicke on the ground (and yet the Cattell feeding among it) that in common reason they cannot but gather some of it into their mouthes: though the foyle of Geese is holden the most dangerous foile of all other Fowle, yet did I neuer heare any complaine of any losse taken either by their foyle or feathers, although in the moulting time, the Commons will seeme as it were strowed with feathers. And it is holden by many good Husbands, that Fowles, especially Duckes and Mallards doe much good to ground and Cattel, especially to Deere and Sheepe, namely by gathering vp the Wormes that so sproute vp the earth in the night, which earth in grounds that are eaten bare, is beaten abroad with euery showre of Raine vpon the short grasse, which commonly is the sweetest, whereon the Deere and Sheepe desire most to feede; and thereby gather vp the earth that is so beaten on the Grasse by the raine, which earth is holden by most skilfull men in sheepe, to bee the principall cause of the Rotte: which the better may bee conceiued for as much as experience hath manifested, that seldome either Sheepe or Deere rotte in grounds deepe of Grasse. Also Wormes liue by the fat of the earth, and decay the strength thereof, (as all the great Gardiners doe affirme) which Fowle and Pullen will destroy, especially wild Ducke and Mallard, in respect that they altogether feede by night on the bareſt grounds, and vpon Wormes most of all.

The second remedie for the dearth of Victuals, by planting of Fruite.

FOr as much as by the experience that is taken out of most of the Countries of this Kingdome, especially out of

of ſome parts of Worceſterſhire, Gloceſterſhire, & Hereford-ſhire, wher it is generally affirmed that there be ſundry men, that raiſeth to their purſes yearly two hũdred pounds, by Fruit trees growing there in their hedges and fields, ouer and beſides what hee ſpendeth in his houſe, in Cider and Perrie: And that there are ſome perſons, that haue thirtie or fortie Hogdſheds in a yeare for Tithe. And further it appeareth, that in moſt Townes of this Kingdome, there haue beene prouident Husbands that haue planted Orchards, which in effect are now decayed, which haue not onely beene very beneficiall to themſelues, but alſo to the Commonwealth, and there be yet ſome few that do plant, ſome an Acre of ground, which is yearely worth fiue pound at the leaſt in Fruite. In reſpect whereof and for other good conſiderations, if it were prouided (in regard the like profit may be yearely raiſed in the greater part of this Kingdome, to the great profit of the Planters, and benefit to the Commonwealth, which will likewiſe bee a ſpeciall meanes to disburden vs of the greateſt part of this grieuance, for that thereby the extreme price of Victuals will be greatly eaſed,) That there may be a certaine number of fruite trees, planted in all the Hedges, as of Apples, Wardens and Peares, and moſt of all Apples, where Whitethorne and Crab-trees doe or may hereafter grow being planted, viz. For euery Acre of encloſed ground foure trees, which can no way be hurtfull, or hinder any other profit whatſoeuer that may be raiſed out of hedges. The fruite that by this meanes may be raiſed yearely, can not be leſſe worth then twelue hundred thouſand pounds, if the fruit were ſold but for ſixe pence a buſhell.

And this I may proue two ſeuerall wayes, Firſt, by experience taken from Crabbes, it is knowen to all Huſwiues

that a bushell of Crabbes, will make two gallons and a halfe of Veriuice, and so much some of the best Chandlors in London haue affirmed to mee. I haue also inquired of some of the better sort inhabiting in the Countries before recited, as I haue trauelled through those Countries for this purpose for my better experience, how much Cider a bushell of Apples will yeeld, or a bushell of Peares of Perrie; whose answeres for the most part were, that a bushell of ordinarie Apples, would at the first presse yeeld two gallons, and a bushell of Peares for the most part, two gallons and a halfe; and by putting a gallon of faire water into the Apples so pressed, and letting it stand some twelue houres, sometimes stirring them, and then presse them againe, would yeeld another gallon, but not so good for long lasting as the first.

The second is this, that in a bushell there is about tenne score of the greatest Pippins, let some of them to the number of twentie bee baked in a Pot for the purpose, or take twentie of them and roste, and that man will be holden for a monster, that can eate so many at one meale, which may be sold for a penny, and the surplusage being foure pound, will recompence the labour that is taken about them. By either of these meanes I hope it will bee allowed, that of themselues they are worth the rate before set downe, and being baked in Paste, a good and profitable vse is made of them in many mens houses, by sauing other victuals; and when it pleaseth God to blesse those few fruit trees that are in this Kingdome, it wil something abate the extreme prices of victuals. This present yeare may be an instance, and all Drouers of Cattell will affirme, that they haue felt the smart of the plentie of fruite, and the inhabitants of the Citie of London will acknowledge, that the fruit that com-

commeth thither, eaſeth ſomething the prices of victuals.

The greateſt hinderance which may be to theſe good workes of planting fruit, and wood, will be confeſſed of moſt men by their experience, who haue in their times ſeene many men beginne to plant orchards, and ſet quick-wood, to the end to haue hedges in many places, eſpecially by high wayes for the ſauing of corne; and at the firſt will make ſome prouiſion for the preſeruing of the ſame, which afterwards ſome by coueting the graſſe growing in the orchard, putteth ſome kinde of cattell therein which breaketh and ſpoileth the grafts: others by want of maintayning the fences, whereby their expectation, coſt and labour is loſt, and ſo in quick-wood after a great coſt in planting, for a little more coſt in maintayning, all is troden downe and loſt: in like ſort much good ſpring wood is ſpoiled by cattell by want of good fencing. Thus either by couetouſneſſe, niggardlineſſe, or negligence, many good actions are ouerthrowne to the loſſe both of the owner & common-wealth, my counſell herein is to beginne well, and to perſeuer therein vnto the end.

Obiections againſt planting of fruit.

FIrſt, that if they bee planted in hedges they will bee ſtolen, and the hedges broken for them.

Secondly, that ſuch plenty of fruit would make corne ouer-cheape for the Farmour.

Thirdly, that if the hedges were ſo thicke planted with trees, in cloſes or fields, that are not aboue ſixe acres, they will be very hurtfull; for that if ſuch cloſes or fields ſhall happen to bee ſowen with corne or mowen for hay, the trees will ſo keepe off the Sunne and winde that in wet

harueſts it will greatly hinder the drying of hay and corne.

Fourthly, that his land is his owne, and he will not be conſtrained to vſe it otherwiſe then he liſteth, and that ſuch as haue a thouſand acres or more in occupation, may haue ſo much fruit as he ſhall not know what to doe with it.

The anſwere to theſe Obiections.

THe firſt I grant in part, that fruit being planted but in particular may be ſtolen, and little good may grow thereby, but being generally planted as is required, what cauſe may any charitable man haue to complaine? or what man complaineth in any of the Countries before recited (from whence example for this purpoſe is taken) of ſtealing his fruit, where the hedges are as thicke with fruit trees and other trees as is required? For ſcarcity cauſeth ſtealing, but in thoſe Countries the trees in the hedges hang as commonly full of fruit on the high waies ſide as on the other, and the hedges of fields and cloſes in thoſe Countries, and in ſome other Countries are as thick of fruit trees and other trees as are required, and yet notwithſtanding ſuch as haue corne or hay in little cloſes make ſhift to get it drie. Thus the firſt and third is anſwered.

What charity is in the fourth, I referre to the cenſure of the indifferent Reader. For it is in reaſon to be conceiued that hardly halfe of the people of the Kingdome hath not grounds to plant on, but would buy them at the rate ſet downe, being cheaper then any other victuals, & by the plenty of fruit ſuch ſtore of Cydar may be made and kept without loſſe, vntill it may happen that a deere yeare of corne may come, which then may be ſpent in drinke, and barly

barly be conuerted to bread corne, and by this meanes corne may alwaies be ſold at reaſonable prices in this land. This may be proued by the beſt Merchants who will euer haue that Cyder which will keepe ſeuen yeares. And by this meanes ſuch ſtore of Corne and Cyder may alwayes be in the Realme, that much treaſure may be brought into the land for Corne, Cyder, and many other commodities that may be ſpared, whereby the Kingdome may be greatly enriched, and the cuſtomes increaſed to the good of the King.

The ſecond is idle: for what man of experience knoweth not but that the Farmour that liueth by tillage, by feeding of beefs, muttons, hogs, pullen, & many other things that may be fed or bred by corne, may make at all times (if hee thinke corne too cheape in the market) by theſe meanes a ſufficient price of his corne for the buyer and ſeller. Moreouer, much more ground may be conuerted to the feeding and breeding of cattell and to dayries, all which is (as the world now goeth) very conuenient, the rather for that by experience it hath beene continually ſeene that whereas corne is deare one yeare in ſeauen, yet for other fiue or ſixe yeares it is at a more reaſonable rate then other victuals, which yearely riſe in price, and ſeldome or neuer abate. And further if corne be very cheape, it may be tranſported as it hath beene, with Pery and Cyder into other Countries, ſo that if the Farmours ſhould looſe ſomething in the prices of their corne, yet they ſhall gaine much more in their houſe-keeping and other neceſſaries.

And whereas it may ſeeme diſtaſtfull to ſome to plant their Fruit trees in the Hedges; admit that there ſhould be an Acre incloſed, wherein may be planted foureſcore fruit trees, euery tree may haue a eleuen yards roome to grow

on, whereby the ground may take no hurt by Woodes, which after ten yeares will yeeld one yeare with another and one tree with another a buſhell of fruit, rated as before at ſixe pence the buſhell, this profit will amount to fortie ſhillings the Acre at that rate. Admit further, that the charge of incloſing of this acre round about, being 8. Rode of breadth, and twentie in length, ſhould coſt 18. pence a Rode, to haue a good Ditch double or treble, ſet with quick Thornes and Hedged round about on the outſide of the Ditch, which Hedge will laſt wel three yeares: at the three yeares end towards the later end of March, cut the quicke wood vpwards with a knife cloſe by the ground, & weede the graſſe cleane vp from about the rootes, the wood of the old Hedge will pay for the labour, and then the firſt charge is foure pound and foure ſhilling. Then Hedge it new againe, which may coſt thirtie and ſixe ſhillings, that Hedge will laſt well till the quicke wood bee paſt taking hurt, for that in thoſe three yeares after it is cut, it will grow higher then it would do in ten yeares being not cut, and ſo thick that nothing can get through it. In the meane time whileſt the Fence is in growing, if there bee ſtrewed in a Nurſerie the kernels of a hundred Apples, or kernels of Crabbes, or ſet when or before the quicke wood is ſet, there will be more ſets then that ground requireth, which being well preſerued, will bee big enough in three or foure yeares to graft vpon. The charge being ſixe pound, is but three yeares purchaſe.

For deſtroying of Virmine.

THe greateſt deuourers of Corne, of theſe kinde are Rookes, Crowes and Sparrowes, the number where-

of

of is infinite, and ſo is the quantitie of Corne which they deſtroy yearely. They alſo greatly hinder the increaſe of Corne, which when they cannot find it lying aboue the ground, they ſcratch it vp with their Clawes or picke it vp with their Bils, Blades and Rootes; and when Corne is eared, then if it happen to be laide, both Rookes and Pidgeons light vpon it and ſo ſpoyle it, that if it were worth fortie ſhillings an Acre before, in one weeke they will make it not worth tenne ſhillings the Acre. One kind of theſe Crowes liue much vpon Chickens and Fowle, and by their Egges, and kill yong Lambes, and doe much hurt beſides. There are alſo many other flying Vermine, that deſtroy Pheſants, Partridges, Fowle, Pullen and young Rabbets, which are Buzards, Kites, Ring-tailes and Pyes, all which or the moſt part of them may eaſily be deſtroyed in three yeares onely, by the pulling downe of their neſts, in breeding time not ſuffering any of them to breed, euery man to vndertake for his owne ground vpon a penaltie, to the vſe of the poore of the Pariſh. Two other great ſpoylers of Fowle, are the ſhooting in Peeces, and water Dogs; the one galleth more then they kill and get, that are loſt, ſo doth dogges when the Fowle are young, and in moulting time. And much Lead and Poulder might bee ſaued, by reaſon that euery man may haue Hawkes meate by his Fowle and Pullen.

Obiections.

THat true it is that is alleadged, that the Vermine before mentioned are as hurtfull to the common wealth as is alleadged, and that many yeares ſince by Act of Parliament there was a ſpecial law made for the generall

generall deſtroying of all kinde of vermine that could bee thought vpon, as Foxes, Badgers, Polecats, wild Cats, Stotes, and all other whatſoeuer, which was as much as then was thought conuenient.

THE ANSVVER.

IT appeareth that ſuch an Act was made for the deſtroying of vermine aforeſaid, and of other vermine, but ſo ſmall an allowance was made that no man made accompt thereof: wherefore by allowing a good proportion for this buſineſſe, they may be ſoone deſtroyed, and the charge ſoone ended; and then all vermine being deſtroyed and pidgeon houſes ſuppreſſed (excepting only ſuch as are allowed by the common lawes of this Kingdome) it cannot be thought that corne will euer be deare.

Of Wood.

THus it is ſufficiently proued, that wood being generally planted for euery acre of this Kingdome, being at leaſt foure and twenty millions, the timber trees growing till they be foureſcore yeares old, cannot be leſſe worth then twenty ſhillings a tree: whereby it appeareth that euery tree groweth after the rate of three pence *per andum*, and foure trees being planted in euery acre commeth to twelue pence an acre *per andum*: ſo that the ſumme ariſeth to twelue thouſand pounds *per andum*, by reaſon that the tenants are but to plant two trees in an acre. And the trees for firewood that are required, togither with the maſt that may grow thereupon, will be as much worth as the timber, and admitting that the fourth

fourth part of the Kingdome be already repleniſhed, yet the gaine by wood and timber of the other three parts will ariſe to eighteene hundred thouſand pounds. The timber and firewood that ſhall be planted in paſture ground as aforeſaid, will be clearely gained by the better breeding and feeding of the number of cattell more that may be bred by the paſture and ſtraw, that may be ſaued which is now ſpoiled and burnt, the worth of beaſts two hundred thouſand & twelue *per andum* at the leaſt. All which may be effected with leſſe then three yeares purchaſe in paſture & meadow grounds, & the whole charge of planting in barren ground may be recouered in leſſe then ſixe yeares, & after ten yeares the ſoile will be improued from twelue pence an acre *per andum*, to ten ſhillings an acre *per andum* at the leaſt. The firewood of a thouſand trees being well husbanded wil be worth twelue pence a tree at euery ten yeares end. The ground is improued forty pound *per andum*, and that the fiue hundred timber trees remaining will be better worth then fiue hundred pounds.

Of Fruit.

IT is alſo proued that fruit trees may bee planted in twelue millions of acres at the leaſt in this Kingdome, which being rated at two ſhillings an acre, ſixe pence a tree, the value thereof commeth to twelue thouſand pounds *per andum*, out of which being deducted for the fruit already planted in this Kingdome two hundred thouſand pounds, yet there remaineth one million of pounds gained yearelie, and that the fruit trees which ſhall be planted in orchards will not coſt aboue three yeares purchaſe, and in hedge rowes not one yeare purchaſe.

Of Fowle and Pullen.

AS concerning the breeding of Fowle and Pullen, it is likewiſe proued that there may be well bred ſo many as will bee worth foure hundred thouſand pounds *per andum*, in this Kingdome, after the rate of eight pence the couple one with another, and that prouiſion being made for the deſtroying of vermine, there will be Fowles enough ſoone bred in this Realme, and that if euery owner of pidgeons ſhould yearlie breede ſo many Fowles or Pullen, as they keepe old pidgeons, and euery man that hath grounds conuenient would make plots to breede on as is aforeſaid, it would greatly eaſe the dearth of victuals, the charge whereof will not bee aboue three yeares purchaſe: for the better vnderſtanding whereof it is to be noted that it appeareth by the generall map of this Kingdome that it contayneth nine and twenty millions fiue hundred ſixty eight thouſand acres, out of which number deducting fiue millions, and the odde thouſands of acres for high waies, wild lying grounds and waſts not fit for planting, there remaineth foure and twenty millions, which being rated at a penny an acre amounteth to an hundred thouſand pounds.

Suppreſsing of Pidgeon houſes, and deſtroying of Vermine.

AND it is likewiſe proued, that by ſuppreſſing halfe the Pidgeon houſes of this Realme, and of Pidgeons kept ouer Gates, Chambers, and other places for that purpoſe, there may bee yearely ſaued ſo much Corne as is worth two Millions of pounds at the leaſt, which they deſtroy and ſpoyle: which may bee effected without

without charge : and that by the deſtroying of feathered Fowles, which in like ſort deſtroy and deuoure Corne, and hinder the increaſe of the ſame, there may bee ſaued as much Corne yearely in this Realme, as is worth three millions of pounds. By the deſtroying of the before recited vermine, there may be ſaued in fowles and pullen and egs, which they deſtroy yearely, the worth of fiue thouſand pound at the leaſt, beſides young Fawnes, Lambes, Rabbets, and many other things by them deſtroyed. I can make proofe where there were within this three yeare ſeuen douſen couple of Rabbets found on a heape, carried together in leſſe time then a moneth by a Stote. Alſo by a generall deſtroying of Rats and Mice there may be ſaued yearely in bread, cheeſe, corne and other things which they deuoure and deſtroy, foure hundred thouſand pound at the leaſt. All or the moſt part of which vermine may be deſtroyed with leſſe coſt then the loſſe which is ſuſtained by them in one halfe yeare, by allowing a good proportion to euery man that deſtroyeth them, as well young and olde, as their egges and neaſts : which would incourage ſeruants and poore men to be induſtrious, in deſtroying the ſaid vermine, and ſo the worke would ſoone be finiſhed, and the charge ended.

Summe, nine millions, two hundred thouſand pound ſaued and gained by this proiect yearely to the performers, beſides the good that may grow therby to the Commonwealth.

That it might be prouided that no Tenants ſhould be indamnified by their Land-lords by letting any of their Farmes, whereupon they haue planted wood or fruite, before they haue receiued ſufficient profite of their labour, without ſufficient recompence for their charge.

FINIS.